NTPC has, however, indicated that they may examine the possibility of setting up a coal based power project for Mangalore for inclusion in its long term capacity addition programme in 12th Plan, if a suitable site with availability of land to the extent of 2500-3000 acres conforming to the power plant sitting criteria (fulfilling environmental and civil aviation requirements) is identified by Government of Karnataka preferably within 50-60 Kms from Mangalore Port and close to sea or adequate water source and Konkan Railway line. There has been no response from Government of Karnataka in this regard.

Passport Reading Machines at Bangalore Airport

*146. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for putting up state-of-the-art passport reading machines at the Immigration Counters at the Bangalore airport;

(b) if so, how many such machines are being installed at Bangalore airport;

(c) what is the cost of these machines and from where these are being imported;

(d) whether clearance has been given to the Karnataka State Government to procure these machines; and

(e) the approximate time to be taken for immigration clearance after installing these machines at Bangalore airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) There is proposal under the consideration of the Government of Karnataka to import four passport reading machines from UK at an estimated cost of Rs.17 lakhs, for being installed at the Bangalore International Airport.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has not received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for clearance in this regard.